

REMARKS

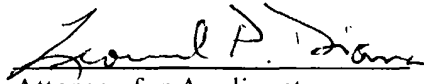
Claims 1-24 are pending in this application, with Claims 1-15 having been previously allowed in the Notice of Allowance dated June 25, 2003. Claims 16-24 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 16, 20, and 23 are in independent form.

Applicant submits that new independent Claims 16, 20, and 23, and their dependent claims, are allowable at least because they are directed to a diffractive optical element that includes the features of a first and second diffraction grating formed on curved surfaces of a substrate, where the first diffraction grating has a grating thickness larger than the second diffraction grating. These features were cited in the Reasons for Allowance section of the Notice of Allowance as the reasons for previously allowing Claims 1-15 and therefore, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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